


Election Signage		 Longreach Regional Council
Policy Number:	5.6	
Policy Category:	Local Laws	
Authorised by:	Res-2022-05-013	
Date approved:	19 May 2022	
Review Date:	19 May 2024	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the installation, erection and display of election signage in Council-controlled areas and roads. This policy seeks to ensure that placement of electoral signage or promotional vehicles cause no detriment to vegetation or amenity and does not pose a danger to road users.

SCOPE

This policy outlines requirements in relation to the location and construction of election signage during Local, State and Federal Government elections. Council manages election signs and advertising devices in Council-controlled areas and roads, and on state-controlled roads within the township areas of the Longreach Regional Council, in conjunction with Department of Transport and Main Roads. This policy does not limit the compliance action of Department of Transport and Main Roads, should the Department determine that an election sign or advertising device creates a road safety or traffic efficiency problem on a state-controlled road. Council has no authority over the content of the election signage. The publication and display of election and electoral matter is regulated by the *Electoral Act 1992 (Qld)* and the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*. The placement of election signs while expected during election campaigns, must meet the Council Election Signage policy requirements.

LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 2009

Electoral Act 1992 (Qld)

Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918

Longreach Regional Council's Local Laws

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995

Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2015

Department of Transport and Main Roads' – Roadside Advertising Manual

Department of Transport and Main Roads' – Policy for the Management of Roadside Advertising (EP162)

DEFINITIONS

Election Signs – means any fixed or portable, freestanding advertising devices identifying candidates and/or promoting a political party at local, state or federal government elections.

POLICY STATEMENT

The placement of election signs within the local government area of Longreach Regional Council (Council) is regulated by:

- Council's Planning Scheme;
- Local Law No.1 (Administration) 2011, section 28, subsection (2), that gives Council the authority to seize and impound, if a structure or material poses a risk as described;
- Subordinate Local Law No. 1.4 (Installation of Advertising Devices) 2011;
- Subordinate Local Law No. 1.14 (Undertaking Regulated Activities on Local Government Controlled Areas and Roads) 2011; and

- The *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*

Council recognises the implied freedom to communicate to the public about political matters, whilst at the same time regulating the placement of election signs in a manner which reduces:

- Any distraction or threat to road users and pedestrians;
- Adverse impacts on Council service delivery;
- Adverse impacts on the amenity of local government controlled areas and roads in Council's local government area; and
- Adverse impacts on any trees, vegetation or infrastructure.

REQUIREMENTS OF ELECTION SIGNS AND ADVERTISING DEVICES

Election signs and advertising devices must:

Display Period:

- not be erected or displayed until the election has been officially announced (i.e. "issuing of the writ" or "notice of election"); and
- be removed within 24 hours of the conclusion of the election polling day. Failure to remove within the specified timeframe will result in Council seizing, removing signs, and recovering the cost of action taken as a debt from the person responsible for the activity. Removal costs are specified in the fees and charges for Council.

Construction:

- be no greater than 0.6m² in size; and
- be made of a material that is designed to be easily broken; and
- be free-standing and self-supporting; and
- be appropriately secured as not to become airborne; and
- the timber stake or frame on which the signs is fastened be made of material that is designed to be easily broken, and have a cross-section measurement of more than 55mm x 25mm; and
- not rotate, be illuminated, or contain moving images; and
- not use reflective or fluorescent materials; and
- not resemble a traffic control device.

Location:

- be located so as not to distract motorists, restrict sight distances on approaches to intersections, obstruct the view of road traffic signs, or otherwise impact on safety; and
- be located at least three and a half (3.5) metres from the edge of the nearest traffic lane on roads where the speed limit is 80km/hr or less; and
- be located at least six (6) metres from the edge of the nearest traffic lane on roads where the speed limit is over 80km/hr; and
- not be located on centre medians or roundabouts.

Placement:

- not be attached to trees/vegetation or any infrastructure belonging to Council, or any other person/organisation without their written consent; and
- not be placed on any structure in the vicinity of a road in a manner which may create a danger to traffic; and
- not be affixed to light or power poles, guardrails, or traffic/road signs; and
- not be placed on any private property without the owner / occupier's approval; and
- be located as close as practicable to the property boundary; and
- not hinder the flow of traffic, protrude over the road or interfere with the road's operation (this includes a person holding or waving on election sign); and

- not hinder the flow of pedestrians and cyclists (including people using a mobility device); and
- not be placed on any pedestrian shared zone or crossing.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE CANDIDATE

Candidates must ensure that:

- they have public liability insurance to cover any damage that may occur as a result of the erection of electoral signage or advertising devices
- they comply with all conditions as stated in this Policy, as well as any conditions stipulated by the Department of Transport and Main Roads, and any other relevant organisation.

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO PLACE SIGNS IN COUNCIL CONTROLLED AREAS

The person(s) wishing to place signage must obtain written approval from Council prior to any signs being erected. The application for approval must be on Council's approved form, *Application to Display Election Signage (Appendix A)*, and include details below:

- the name and address of the person(s) that will be the subject of the advertising device;
- the name and address of the person(s) responsible for the installation of the advertising device;
- proof of identification, e.g. driver licence
- confirmation of agreement to comply with conditions as stated in this policy
- confirmation of public liability insurance
- signage installation details, including placement and number of signs per designated town area

SIGNS ON STATE CONTROLLED ROADS

Election signs on state-controlled roads are regulated by paragraph 9.12 of the *Roadside Advertising Guide Department of Transport and Main Roads, Queensland Government Ancillary Works and Encroachments Notice (No. 1) 2009*.

GENERAL BREACH PROVISIONS

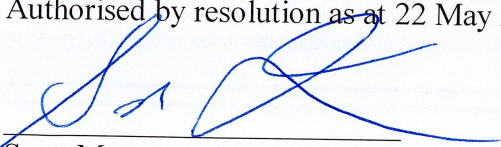
Council may give verbal or written notice to person/s responsible for placing of election sign/s on an area or road to require the signage to be removed within a specified period for any contravention of the conditions stated in this policy. Council will specifically enforce the removal of the obstruction if the placement of the election sign/s raises a significant safety issue and/or creates impact on:

- Council vegetation or facilities;
- Council service delivery; and
- Pedestrians or motorists.

EMERGENCY PROVISIONS

Electoral signage which is located in such a way that it poses an immediate threat to Council assets or facilities, or the safety of motorists and pedestrians, will be seized by Council without first issuing a notice to the responsible person(s).

Authorised by resolution as at 22 May 2022:


Scott Mason
Acting Chief Executive Officer



Details of the Candidate that is the subject of Election Signage / Advertising Device	Full Name				Date of Birth	
	Business Address					
	Town		State		Postcode	
	Postal Address	<input type="checkbox"/> As Above				
	Town		State		Postcode	
	Phone		Email			
	ID Type		Expiry			
	Number		State			

Details of the person that is responsible for the installation of Election Signage / Advertising Device	<input type="checkbox"/> As Above					
	Full Name				Date of Birth	
	Business Address					
	Town		State		Postcode	
	Postal Address	<input type="checkbox"/> As Above				
	Town		State		Postcode	
	Phone		Email			
	ID Type		Expiry			
Number		State				

Signage Details	Townships where signs will be displayed:	<input type="checkbox"/> Longreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Ilfracombe	<input type="checkbox"/> Isisford	<input type="checkbox"/> Yaraka
	Total Number of Signs per township:				
	General Location of Signs:				

Applicant Declaration – I declare that:

I have read and understood the conditions of Longreach Regional Council's Election Signage Policy, and agree to comply with all requirements. I confirm that I have public liability insurance that is appropriate to cover any injury or damage that may occur as a result of the erection of electoral signage or advertising devices. I hereby accept all liability for any claims for injuries or damages incurred by any person arising from the placement of election signs and non-compliance with the conditions as stated in the Election Signage Policy.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

PRIVACY & COLLECTION NOTICE - Longreach Regional Council is collecting your personal details for the purpose of dealing with your animal registration and meeting legislative obligations. We will not disclose your personal information outside of Council unless we are required to by law, the information is the subject of an application pursuant to the *Right to Information Act 2009*, or you have given your consent. By completing and signing this form and returning it to Longreach Regional Council, it will be taken that you have given your consent to manage your personal information in the manner described in this notice. Your personal information is handled in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

OFFICE USE ONLY – Please direct application form to Local Laws Department	Application Received By:			Date:	
	Complete?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	If no, reason/s:	
	Recommended for Approval?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	If no, reason/s:	
	Assessed By:			Date sent to CEO for Approval/Refusal:	